[Translation]

Examination System

2775. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reform the Examination System adopted by the Union Public Service Commission so as to remove the shortcomings noticed in the system recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). No Sir, the existing system is working well and whenever any deficiencies are noticed, the same are rectified.

Homelessness

2776. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "36 million Indians are homeless, says the Minister" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated October 7, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Based on 1991 census, the estimated housing shortage in the country as of 1.3.96 is 21.56 million dwelling units. The number of houseless persons in India as per 1991 census is 2,007,489 (excluding the population of Jammu and Kashmir where 1991 census was not conducted).

(c) The National Housing Policy adopted by Parliament in 1994 stipulates reducing houselessness during next ten years through a number of concrete measures outlined in the policy.

[English]

Upper Indirawati Power Project

2777. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Power Finance Corporation has released funds for Upper Indirawati Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the balance sanctioned funds yet to be released for the purpose;

(d) the time by which the rest of sanctioned funds are likely to released; and

(e) the target fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A loan of Rs. 320 crores has been sanctioned by Power Finance Corporation vide sanction letter dated 18th April, 1996 and an amount of Rs. 36.70 crores has been disbursed upto November, 1996.

(c) and (d). The drawal schedule as proposed by Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) subject to loan conditions is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

1996-97	100.00	(includes Rs. 36.70 crores already released upto November, 1996)
1997-98	80.00	
1998-99	80.00	
1999-2000	60.00	
Total	320.00	

(e) All the units are scheduled for completion by 1998-99.

[Translation]

Housing Scheme with External Assistance

2778. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any housing scheme is running/ proposed to be run with foreign assistance in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). The following housing schemes are under implementation in Maharashtra with external Assistance :

I. World Bank Assisted Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Project in Latur and Osmanabad Districts.

World Bank has committed soft loan of SDR 177 million for reconstruction of 26871 houses, 469 community buildings, strengthening/repairs of 1,72,444 houses, construction of roads, bridges, public/other